

C.124 g.17



The life of saint
Catherine





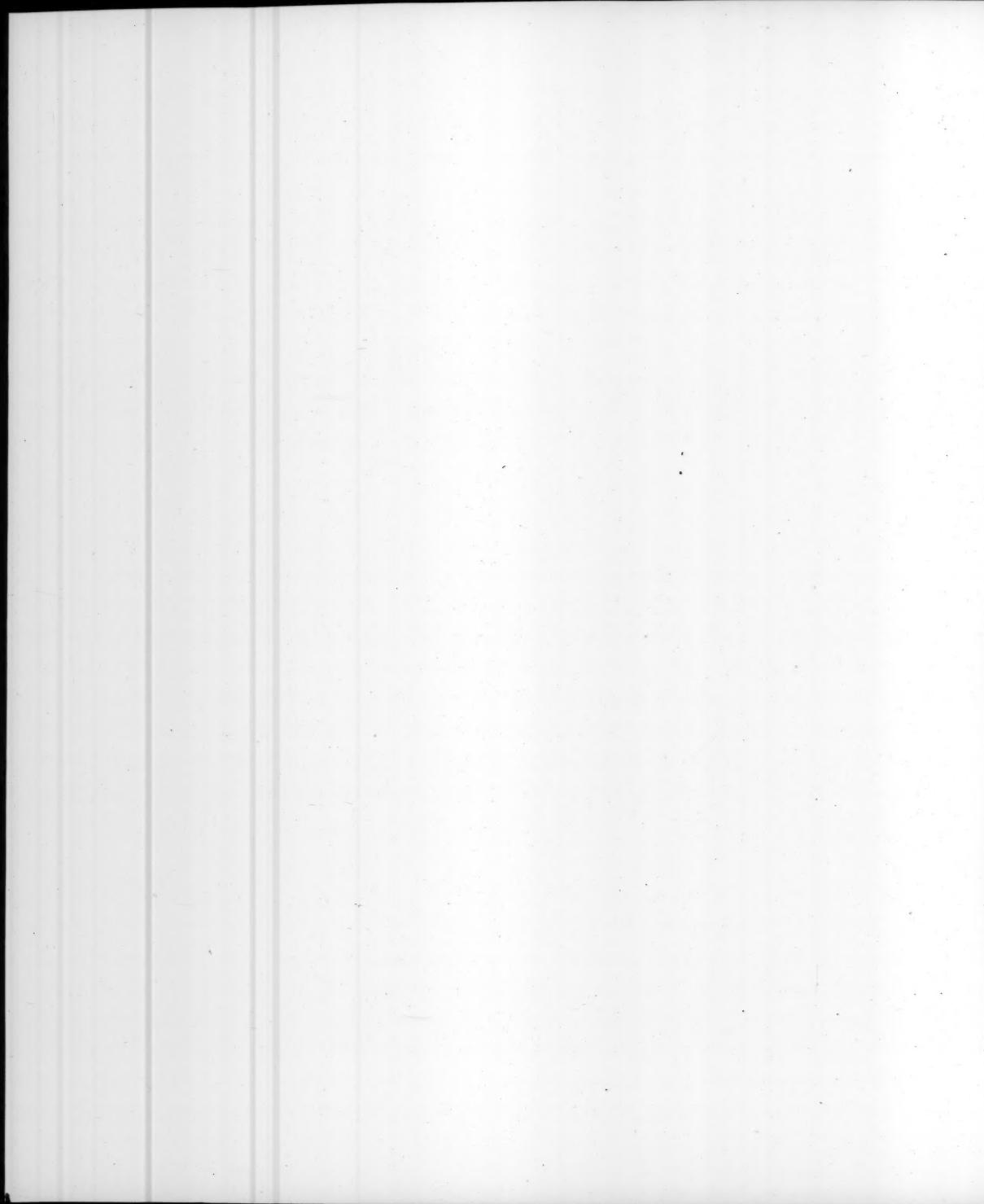
The life of Sainte
Katherine



DE begynneth the ryghte excellent and
full gloriouſe lyfe and paſſyon of the ry-
ghte blyſſed virgyn and martyre ſayne
Katheryne.

Chaptere the fyrt chaptre.

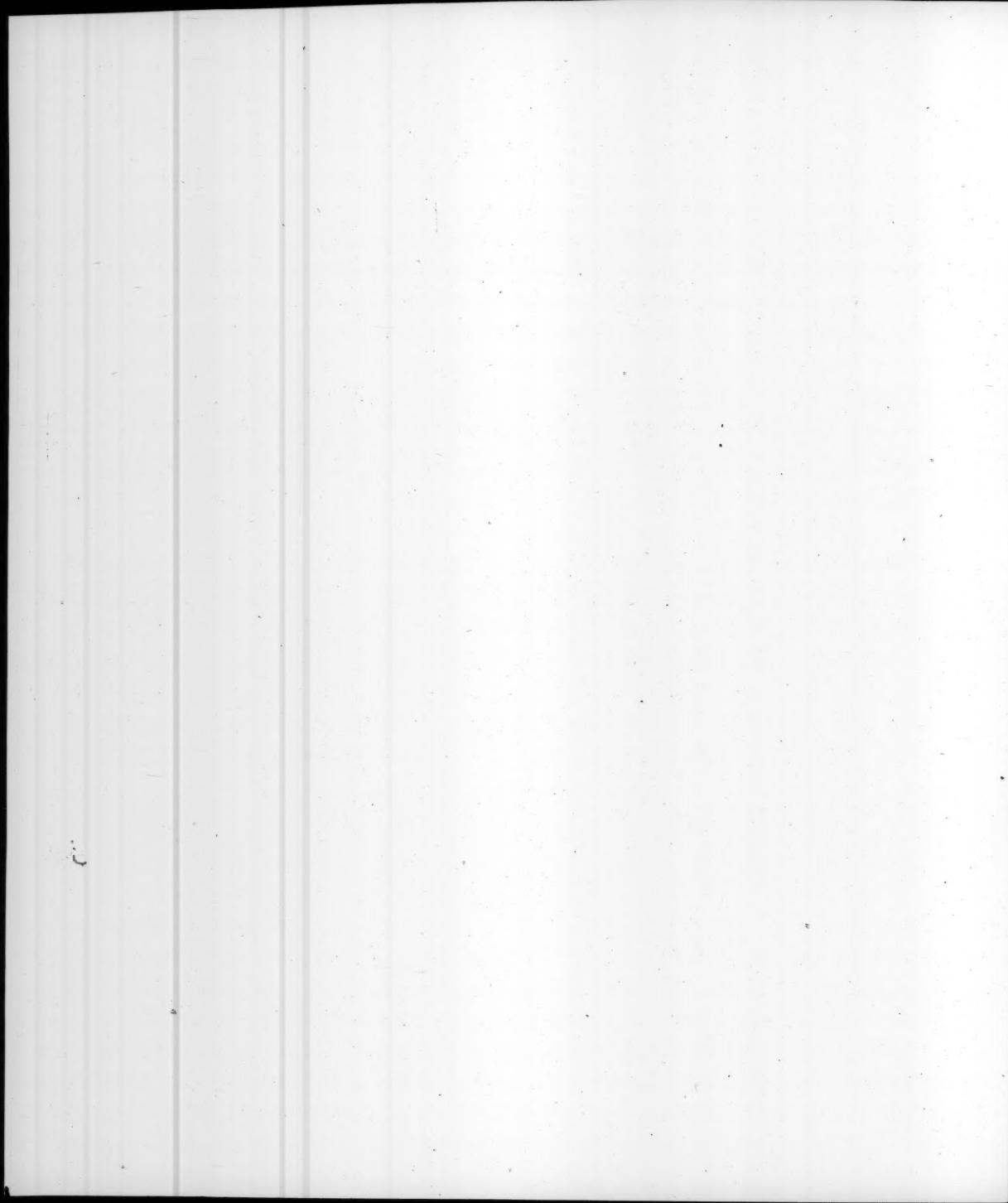
His blyſſed virgyn ſaint katheryn was by
the dyſcent of the lyne and of the noble kyn-
rede of the Imperoure of Rome/as it ſhall be de-
clared more playnly here after/by a noble cronycle
whiche moost blyſſed lyfe and conuerſacyon was
writte of the ſoleyne doctour Athanaliꝝ that knew
hir byrth hir kyndred hir holy lyfe & conuerſacyon.
And this ſame Athanaliꝝ was oone of hir may-
ſters in hir tender age/and by the grace of the holy
gost ſhe was conuerted to the faithe. And after that
ſhe was conuerted/she conuerted the ſame athanali-
us by holy and meruelous werkes that oure lordc
wrought in hir. and after by his wyldom he was
made biffhop of Alisandre/& was a gloriouſe pyler
of holy church/by the grace of oure lordc god & his
holy meritis/as we do fynde by credible cronycles
for in the tyme of the imperour Diocleſian & maxi-
mian/ſo great & cruel tyranny was ſhe wed in the
worlde & not only of criften but also of paynynmes
that in y^e tyme many a realme that was subget to
rome put away the yok of ther ſeruage & openy rez-
uelled aleſt the imperour amoge whiche the realme
of Crimony was one of the mooste that myghtely



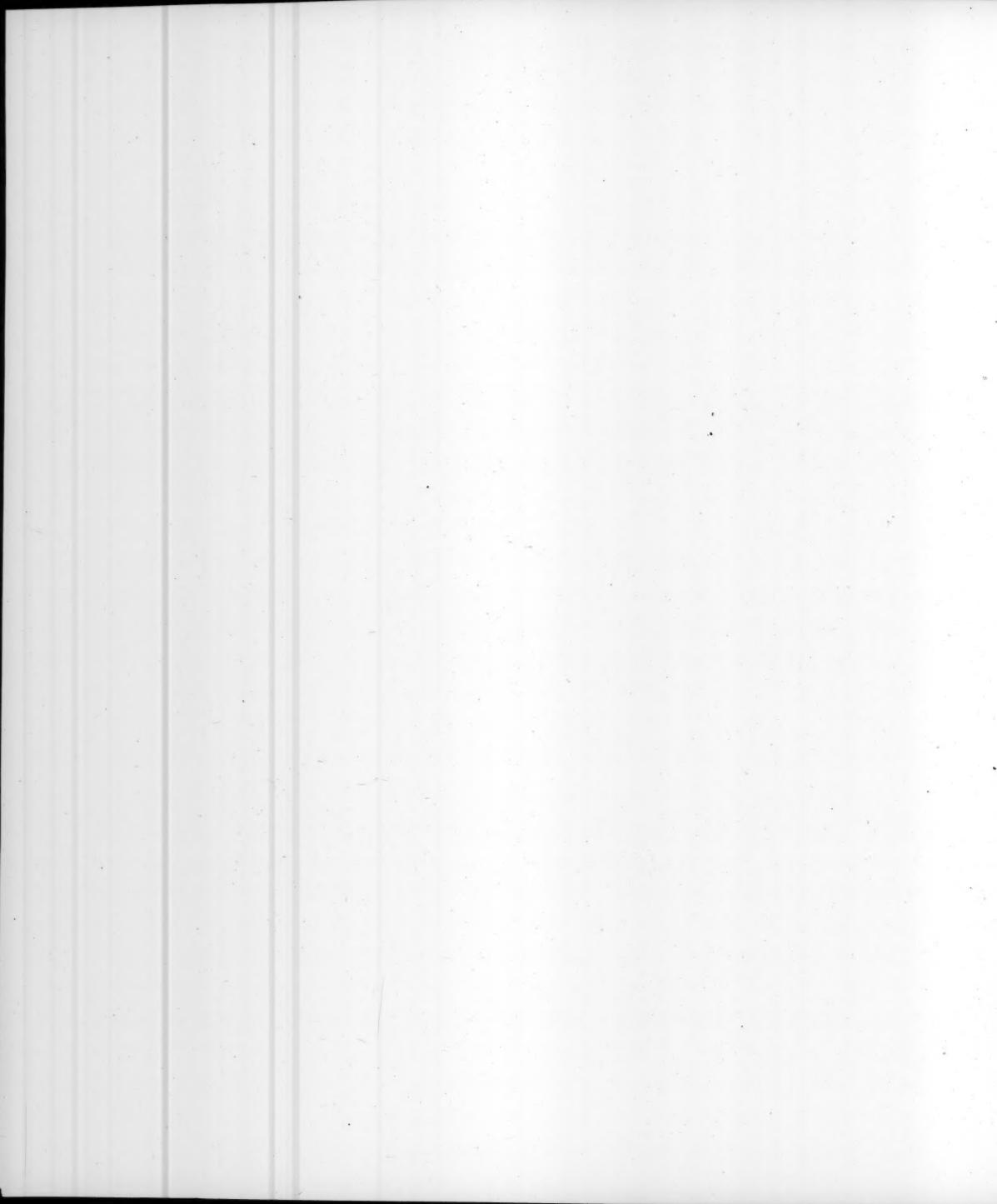
With stode the tribute that longed to the emperour
of rome wherfore ther was chosen to apeas that re-
ballyon a lord of greate dygnyte of the counseyle
of highe constancius which was afore al other man
ly in armes/ and therwith right discrete and fulle
of vertues. The whiche lord than whanne he cam
in to Ermonie staunched so by hys vertue and man-
lye gouernance that reballyon / that he deserued
the loue of all his ennemyes/ soo ferfurthe/ that the
kyng and alle his people desyred that he shulde
wedde the doughter and the heire of the lande and
whane this was doone within a whyle after the
kyng of Ermonie dyed/ & constancius was crow-
ned kyng of that lande the whiche within a while
after had a son by the quene the whiche was clepid
costus And sone after that died the quene for who
was made great lamentacion of hir people. After
whos deathe constancius the kyng tourned agayne
to Rome for to se the emperours welfare/ and for
to se & knowe howe his lordshyppes were gouer-
ned in tho partyes. and in the mene tyme came cy-
dynges to the emperour of Rome howe that greate
brytayne that nothe is called Englonde rebellyd
agaynste the emperour of Rome. wherfore it was
seen amonge the conseil/ that it was to requyze con-
stanti the kyng of Ermonie to take on hym for to
redresse that reballyon. the whiche request he god-
granted & dñe to him towardeis tho ptes & in his
cominge he tyed hym f: by his vertue & prudenc



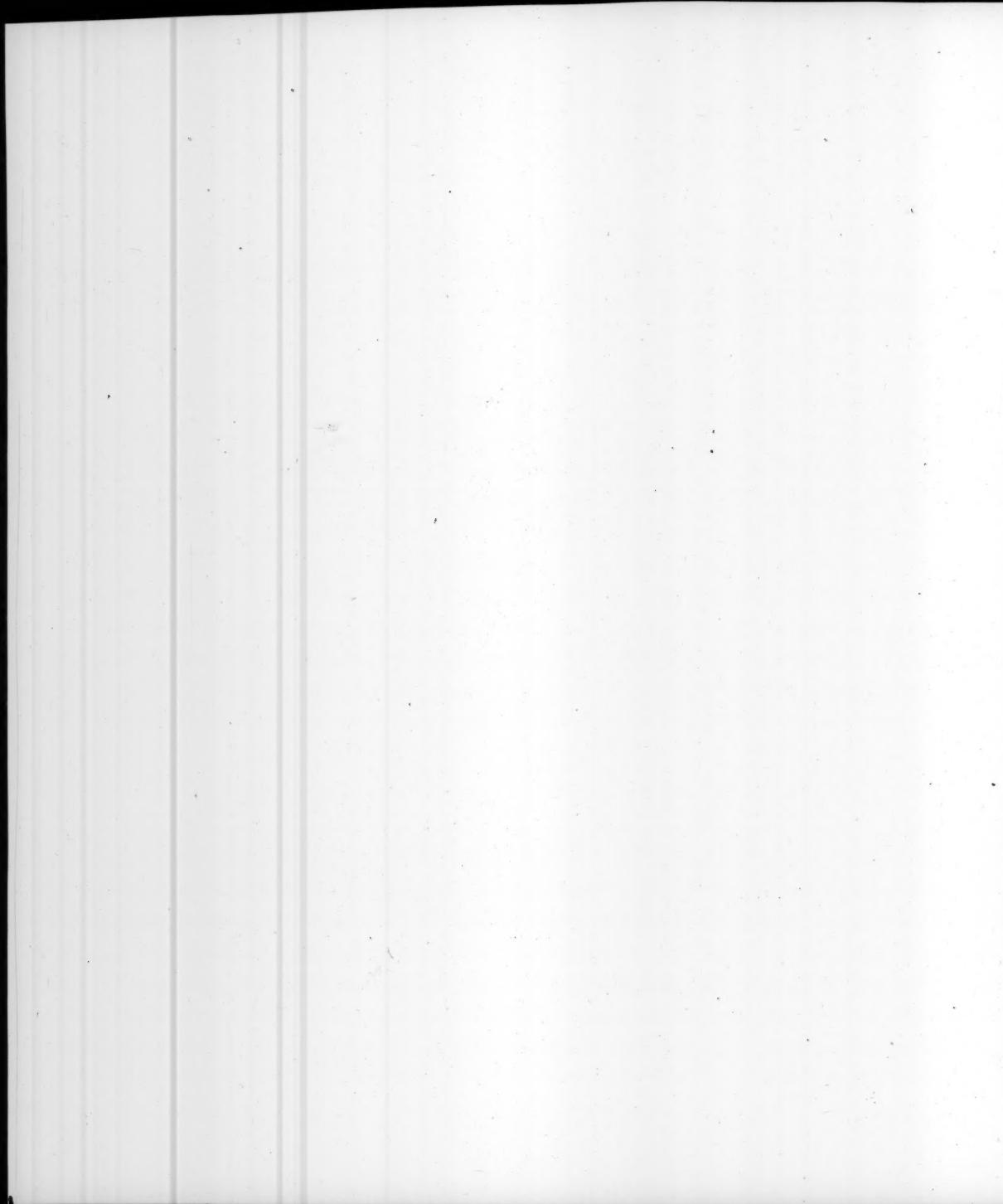
Wherfore we be in derkenes, & tyl the light of gracie
come we may not se the clere waye, and whanne
hym lyght to come he shal voyde awy the dark clo-
thes of ignorance, & she we hym clereley to me whiche
I so feruently desyre and loue. And if so be that
hym lyghte not that I fynde hym / yet reason com-
maundeth me to kepe hole that is vr:hurst. wherfo-
re I beseeche you humbly my lady my moder that
ye ne noone other neuer meue moore of this name
for I byhyghte you playnely that for to dyc ther-
fore I shalle never haue other but only hym than
I haue dyscryuyd / to whom I shall truely kepe
al the pure loue of my herte. And with this she ro-
se vp and hir moder & all the lordes frome the par-
liament. And with great sorowe / and lamentacion
they toke ther leue & went on their way. & t. alme
the yonge lady went home vnto hir paleys / whose
herte was so set on syze wth thys husbonde y^e she
had discryued that she coude no thinge thynke w-
do but all hir mynde & hir intencion was only on
hym. wherfoore she stodyd & mused contynually
holwe she myght fynde hym but it wold nat bi as
yit / for sooth she had no meaus therro. That wryt-
standinge he was full nere hir herte . for he it was
that had kynled hir herte wth a brenyngc syze
loue that shulde never be quenched by no peyne
tribulacion which was melle sene in his gloomy
passion herafter.



Ere I leue this yonge quene as for a tyme
lytyng in hir palyce contynually thinking
and ymagynyng howe she myght fynde
this newe spouse with many a tere of elongacyon
and many a soze syghe/ for hir blynde ignorauice
and nowe I shall turne as our lord wyl gyue me
grace to shewe howe oure lord by hys speciall my
racle clepyd hir to baptyme/ in a synguler manere
hat never was herd of before ne sith & after howe
he wodded hir visibly i a gloriouſ maner/ shewige
hir loueraigne tokenys of loue/ that never was shew-
nid to none earthly creature saue only to oure lady
his blesyd moder. ¶ Belyde Alysander a certeyn
space of myles ther dwelte an holy fader in deserte
that hight Adryan the whiche had serued oure holy
fader almyghty god the space of xxx. yere in grea-
te penaunce. And on a daye as he walked byfooze
his celle in meditation/ ther cam agaynst hym the
most reueret lady that any earthly creature myght
 beholde. and whan the heremyte bihelde hir most
excellent estat/ and hyghe beaute aboue kynde he
was so soze astoned and dredefull that he fyl dows
ne as deede. Thanne this blesyd lady leyng hys
great drede cleped hym goodly by his name & said
moder Adryan drede ye not for I am not come to
you but for your great worshyp honour & profyte
with that she toke hym by the hand myldly & con-
forted hym & said to hym in this wise. Adrian ye
must go on a message to the cyte of Allisaundre for



me and into the palys of the yonge Quene & ther
ye must say to hit that that lady gretethe hit well
Whose son she chale to hit lord and hulbonde syt-
tinge in hit parlement with hit moder and all hit
lordes aboute hit whare she had a greate contly-
te and batayle in kepinge of hit virgynyte / and tel
hit that the same lord that she dyd chese ther ys
my son that am a clene virgyn and he desyret hit
beautye and he loueth hit chalite auonge all vir-
gyns in erthe / & byd hit without tariyng that she
come with you alone into this place and she shalbe
newe clothed and than she shall see hym / and has-
ue hym to hit everlastinge spouse . The here myte
heringe all this / answered thus . O blessed Lady
holwe shulde I do this message for nouther I kn-
ow the cite ne the wey and what am I though I
knewe it for to doo suche a message vnto the quene
Hit meny woll nat suffre me to come vnto hit pre-
sence: and she woll nat byleue me of my message.
but put me in duraunce as though he I were a fay-
toure . **A**dryan saide this blesyd Lady drede ye
nat for that that my son hath begonne in hit mis-
nedis be perfourmed: for wete ye well she is a spc-
cyall chosyn vessel of grace before all other women
Wherforc tary nat ne drede nat . For bothe ye shall
knowe the cyte and also the wey into hyr palcys
for there shall no creature take heede to you
And whan ye come into hit palcys take goode
heede whiche dores open agaynst you / and enter in



boldly tyll that ye come vnto this faire yonge que
ne whome ye shall fynde alone in hit stodye stody
inge full soze in hit wittis of that that wold nat be
wherfore my son hath compasyon on hit laboure
and for hit goode wyll she shal be specially fed w^t
his grace that was never none lyke to hit / outake
myn owne psone that am his owne moder. wher
fore Adryan hye you fast & bringe me my dere dou
ghter that I loue with all myn herte. And whan
Adryan had recsyued hys message / he layde hym
dowyne flatte before hys souerayne lady saynge in
this wyse. All worshyp & Joy be to my lord god
your blesyd son. & your blesyd wyll be fulfylled &
I woll go at your comauement.

C The vii. chapter.

And anone adrian rose him vp & hied him fast
to thc cyte of alisader & passed the desert and
so furth tyll he came to the cyte / and so he wente
furth to the paleys as he had lerned so dyd he / and
entred in at the dores the whyche opened ageynste
hym / & so he yode from chamber to chaumber tyll
y^e he cam to the secrete stody where as no creature
w^ted to come but she hit self alone / & whan that he
entred in at the doore he sawe where late the fairest
creature & the most goodly y^e any creature myght
 beholde / and she late so sadde in hit stody that she
herde hym nat vnto the tyme that he knched hym